GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2517
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003
SARVAPRIYA SCHEME
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the State where the 'Sarvapriya' schemes has been launched and since when;

(b) the allocation of funds made to those States under this centrally sponsored scheme during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the scheme has not been launched in every State; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (c): The Government of India had launched ascheme entitled 'Sarvpriya' in July 2000. The scheme envisages distribution of eleven selected commodities of daily use to be distributed to the consumers through the existing PDS Retail Outlets and the Retail Outlets of the State Consumers' Cooperative Federations, State Civil Supplies Corporationsand the Consumer Cooperative Societies in the States. Initially, the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura andPondicherry participated in the scheme. At present, only the following three States are operating the scheme, namely Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) : The scheme is a voluntary one and involves no subsidy. As such, no state-wise allocations of funds are required to be made.

(d) : According to the NCCF, the reasons for the Scheme not picking up are:-

(i) Some states have their own schemes for supply of essential commodities;

(ii) Reluctance on the part of the State agencies/State Governments to involve their funds;

(iii) Fair price shops are not showing interest in the lifting of the stocks due to shrinkage in the clientele on reduction in the number of card holders eligible for drawal of sugar and food grains.

The NCCF has however agreed to include more items of commonuse to the eleven identified items, provided the State Governments/State agencies agree to place orders for adequate volume. The State Governments have also been requested to dove-tail their own schemes and utilize the facilities provided under the Sarvpriya Scheme.